

\$600,000 Damages Asked in Lamb Suit

The city of Terre Haute and the State of Indiana have been named defendants in a \$600,000 damage suit filed Friday afternoon in Superior Court by the parents of William R. Lamb Jr., who was killed in a high-speed police chase here a year ago.

The suit asks \$300,000 for actual damages and another \$300,000 exemplary or punitive damages for William R. Lamb Sr. and Ruth Lamb, parents of the dead youngster.

Young Lamb, who was 14 at the time of his death, was being pursued by several police squad cars, including units from the Terre Haute Police Department and Indiana State Police, when the car he was driving crashed into a parked truck near Twelfth and Spruce streets. The chase, which lasted 22 minutes, began near 25th and Franklin Streets and covered much of the city's southside and near-northside.

The suit charges the city police officers, a state trooper and a state excise police officer conducted the chase in a "reckless, malicious and oppressive manner totally in disregard of the rights of William R. Lamb Jr.

It asserts further they "exercised and used excessive force in attempting to stop the vehicle . . . by the use of firearms, including handguns and a shotgun." The suit states the attempt to stop the vehicle resulted from an alleged misdemeanor traffic offense and that the

use of firearms was the proximate cause of Lamb's death.

An investigation was made into the boy's death by the Vigo County Grand Jury shortly after the incident. The six-member panel returned a "no bill" which means there was not enough evidence to bring indictments against anyone involved in the case.

Raymond H. Modesitt of the Dix, Patrick, Ratcliffe & Adamson law firm filed the complaint in the Lambs' behalf.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

LAMB, WILLIAM R JR

Crime and Criminals (T.H.)

Sites Selected To Hear Suit In Lamb Death

Community Affairs File

MAY 20 1976

Three surrounding counties, Parke, Clay and Vermillion, have been named as potential sites for the suit filed as the result of the death of William R. Lamb Jr., who was killed in January of 1975, following a high speed chase with police.

Judge Harold J. Bitzegaio of Vigo County Court Division I granted the State of Indiana a motion for a change of venue.

Defendants in the suit are the state, the City of Terre Haute and an Indiana Excise Police officer.

The suit filed by the youngster's parents seeks damages in the amount of \$600,000.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Lamb, William Jr

Crime & Criminals T.H.

14-Year-Old Dead

Community Affairs File

After Police Chase

T JAN 17 1975

A Terre Haute youth, involved in a high-speed chase by city and state police Thursday night that ended when the youth wrecked the auto, is dead.

William R. Lamb Jr., 14, a ninth grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, died at 11:05 p.m. Thursday at Union Hospital.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb Sr., 231 N. 23rd St.

Shots were reportedly fired at the youth's vehicle during a 25-minute chase that began at 9:30 p.m., when Lamb allegedly ran a stop sign in the vicinity of 21st and Franklin Sts.

The chase ended when the car driven by the youth left the street, squeezed between a telephone pole and a building and finally came to rest after striking the rear end of a parked dump truck at 12th and Spruce Sts.

Whether Lamb's death was caused by the shots or by the automobile wreck was not determined, pending a report from the coroner. An autopsy was performed Friday morning.

City police did state that shots were fired during the chase, but it was not known if the youth had been hit.

Bullet holes were allegedly found in the rear of the car. In addition, part of the back window of the vehicle was broken out.

After the city officer on patrol saw Lamb run the stop sign, he began a chase that covered the extreme south end of the city, the southwest corner of Terre Haute, and the near north-side.

During that time, speeds ranged from 50 to 75 miles per hour. Three road blocks were set up during the chase, but Lamb disregarded all three, hitting two city vehicles, according to the police reports.

During the chase, six city and one state police car were involved. At the time of the crash, both city and state police were on the scene.

The 1972 compact car Lamb was driving was heavily damaged.

Reports indicate the city police picked up a second youth, also a 14-year-old, who had been riding in Lamb's automobile at one point during the chase.

The youth apparently got out of the car near Halman and 19 Sts. and allegedly attempted to flee on foot.

Police interviewed the second youth in reference to the situation, but he was not held.

Police indicated that the investigation was continuing and that debriefings were still in progress Friday afternoon. Officials also confirmed that Lamb had no police record.

The injured youth was transported to Union Hospital by a Terre Haute Fire Department ambulance. His initial condition was reported as critical, but he died shortly thereafter.

At Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Lamb played the trumpet in the school band. He also had carried two Terre Haute Star routes for about a year.

Other survivors include a brother, Robert, U.S. Marine Corps, aboard ship in Mediterranean; two sisters, Kathleen and Ellen, both at home; a grandmother, Mrs. Bessie Lamb, Brazil, and several aunts and uncles.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Callahan Funeral Home.

Vigo Grand Jury

T JAN 18 1975

May Probe Death

By PAT BARNES
Tribune Staff Writer

Dr. Jack G. Weinbaum, a pathologist who performed the autopsy on the body of William R. Lamb Jr., 14, who died late Thursday night following a high speed chase with police, told The TRIBUNE Saturday he has turned over his findings to Georg Kern, a deputy coroner for Vigo County Coroner Dr. Robert J. Burkle.

Dr. Weinbaum said his report to Kern listed the cause of death.

Kern was unavailable for comment. There has been no indication by authorities when the report will be made public.

Vigo County Prosecutor Michael H. Kearns Friday after-

noon confirmed the fact that bullets had been removed from the body of the youth. However, Kearns said, he had not learned whether the youth died from gunshot wounds or as a result of his auto crashing into the rear of a parked truck.

Vigo Circuit Judge C. Joseph Anderson told The TRIBUNE Saturday he "felt sure the grand jury would be called into session" to investigate the circumstances surrounding the youth's death. A request for the grand jury session, Anderson said, would have to originate from the office of Kearns.

Anderson went on to say that a number of law enforcement officers weapons have been sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ballistics office to deter-

mine which weapon fired the bullets that entered the youth's body.

The judge said that any weapon that was fired during the chase will be run through ballistics.

A number of law enforcement officers, including Terre Haute Police detectives and detectives from the Indiana State Police along with investigators from the prosecutor's office, Saturday were continuing to interview persons and collect evidence.

The high speed chase first began about 9:30 p.m. Thursday when a city policeman attempted to stop the auto driven by Lamb after it allegedly ran a stop sign at the intersection of 21st and Franklin Sts.

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Grand Jury
T JAN 18 1975
Continued From Page One.

The chase finally ended when the auto struck a parked dump truck at 12th and Spruce Sts.

A number of bullet holes were found in the auto. The back windshield had been shattered as well as the front glass.

Following the crash Lamb was taken to Union Hospital, where he died about two hours later.

A second youth in the auto driven by Lamb jumped from the vehicle when it stopped at 19th and Hulman Sts. That youth was taken into custody by police, questioned and later released.

Lamb was a ninth grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School and a newscaster for the Terre Haute Star.

Survivors include the parents, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb Sr.; a brother, Robert, serving with the U.S. Marine Corps aboard a ship in the Mediterranean; two sisters, Kathleen and Ellen, both at home; the grandmother, Mrs. Bessie Lamb, Brazil, and several aunts and uncles.

Friends may call at the Callahan Funeral Home after 2:30 p.m. Sunday. A wake service will be held at the funeral home at 4 p.m., Sunday with Father David Lawler officiating. Other funeral services are pending.



WILLIAM R. LAMB JR.

14-Year-Old Local Boy Dies After Speed Chase

Autopsy

Results

Unknown

8 JAN 18 1975

By DOUG SANDHAGE
Star Staff Writer

A 14-year-old Terre Haute boy died shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday following a 30-minute auto chase that began with his running a stop sign.

Dead is William R. Lamb, Jr. A ninth grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb, Sr., 231 N. 23rd St.

An autopsy on the body to determine cause of death was performed Friday morning. Neither Vigo County Coroner Dr. Robert Burkle nor his assistant George Kern were available for comment during the day or prior to the Star's presstime.

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However, Vigo County Prosecutor Mike Kearns told The Star that bullets, fired at the vehicle during the chase, were removed from the body of the boy. He did not know and would not speculate if the bullets or the final crash caused the death of the local boy.

Kearns said that he spent most of Friday seeing that all the law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation turned over all the available evidence and reports. He added that he has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to cooperate by clearing and

See SPEED CHASE

On Page 2, Column 2



WILLIAM R. LAMB JR.

Speed Chase

Continued From Page 1

checking evidence sent to its Washington, D.C. headquarters.

The FBI was in no way involved in the Thursday night incident, according to both Kearns and FBI Agent Bowen Johnson, Sr. resident officer of the local office.

Kearns concluded that he has not yet looked into any legal aspects, if there are any, concerning the case.

Other unconfirmed reports indicated that a grand jury may be called to investigate.

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A city police spokesman, who wished not to be identified, told The Star that the rule of thumb to follow before deciding to use firearm force to stop a subject is "if another person's life is in danger and/or if there is no other alternative."

The spokesman added that other circumstances, including the thought that a felony had been committed by the subject, would be reason enough for firearm force.

The final decision must be made by the officer in pursuit whose job it is to protect the innocent, the spokesman concluded.

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It is unknown when the shots were fired but Lamb reportedly got away from three roadblocks. Two city vehicles were hit by the car.

The chase ended at 12th and Spruce Streets when the vehicle left the road, squeezed between a telephone pole and a building and then struck the rear end of a parked dump truck.

At the scene, The Star counted at least eight bullet holes near the rear right tire. In addition, part of the rear window on the drivers side was blown away, unknown if caused by the crash or gunfire.

One source told The Star that an attempt was made to only shoot at the tires of the vehicle to get it stopped. However, it was reportedly found that the

tires were steel belted radials unable to be penetrated.

Lamb was taken to Union Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition. He died at 11:05 p.m.

The second youth, who was questioned by authorities Friday, is apparently not being charged. Reports indicate that during questioning, the youth said that he unsuccessfully tried to get Lamb to stop.

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The 1972 model Volkswagen appeared to be heavily damaged.

Several persons who were able to observe parts of the chase indicated that several near crashes were just narrowly avoided, especially when the youth went north on 8th Street, a one-way street.

At Woodrow Wilson Junior High, Lamb played the trumpet in the school band. He also had carried two Terre Haute Star paper routes for about a year.

Police indicate that he had no police record.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Callahan Funeral Home.

According to available reports, the incident started about 9:30 p.m. when the Lamb youth was spotted by police running a stop sign at 21st and Franklin Streets. When the police officer, who has not been identified, tried to stop the vehicle, the chase began.

However, the auto reportedly pulled over at the intersection of Hulman and 19th Streets when a second juvenile got out of the car. While the youth was being detained by the officer, Lamb reportedly took off again.

The chase went south to Margaret Avenue, west to State Road 63, north to Washington Street, east to 6th Street, north to Poplar Street, east to 8th Street, north to Cherry, east to 9th Street, north to Spruce Street, and east to 12th Street.

Speeds reportedly reached somewhere between 75 and 90 miles per hour during the chase. Five city police squad cars and one state police vehicle were in pursuit.

'Some Other Way?' Parents Question After Son's Death

TS JAN 19 1975

By JACK HUGHES

Tribune Staff Writer

"It seems there should have been another way..."

That's a thought that keeps coming up in conversations about the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb Jr., fatally wounded in a police chase resulting from alleged traffic offenses.

The TRIBUNE learned Saturday evening that the preliminary report from the office of Vigo County Coroner Robert J. Burkle indicated belief that the cause of death was a head wound resulting from gunfire. Earlier media accounts stated that official information left open the possibility that the boy died from injuries received when his car crashed, ending the pursuit.

That pursuit claims the attention of authorities and observers alike, as well as young Lamb's family.

William R. Lamb Sr. said Saturday. "We don't want to criticize the police. They do a tremendous job — especially with their hands tied behind their backs the way they are by the courts—it just looks like there could have been another way..."

Unofficially, some authorities appear to agree. But the usual concern about fragmentary reporting before the investigation is complete, and seemingly growing awareness that the case at hand is in some ways unique—but could happen again—combine to restrict comments from officials at this time.

The possibility of a grand jury inquiry was acknowledged by Vigo Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson who noted, however, that such an inquiry would have to be requested by the prosecutor.

Vigo Prosecuting Attorney Michael H. Kearns said Saturday evening that he probably will have some idea the first of the week as to when he will be able to decide whether a grand jury call will be appropriate. "We're gathering all the information, the physical evidence as well as statements and other aspects of the investigation, and then we'll see if it needs to go to the Grand Jury. It shouldn't take an unreasonable length of time..."

Physical evidence included metal fragments, believed to be parts of bullets or other projectiles such as shotgun pellets, sent for analysis to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory in Washington, D. C., according to Prosecutor Kearns and Dr. Burkle. Reports indicated that young Lamb's body yielded no whole projectiles, only fragments from possible ricochets.

Evident in the tone of voice of

various officials questioned, as well as in their choice of words, was concern for accurate and objective reporting.

The same concern was indicated by the Lamb boy's father, obviously torn by his respect and regard for the law and the men charged with enforcing laws, in the midst of memories of a hard-working, honest, law-abiding boy, a credit to his family at school, at home and in other activities.

"He must have been out of his mind with fear," said the parents Saturday as they continued to try to understand how what happened had happened. "He'd never been in that kind

of situation," reported the father. "He panicked. That's all there was to it."

Then came the pull of a citizen's recognition of responsibility as the senior Lamb said, "I have to say in all honesty he had to be stopped. . . . He was endangering other people's lives. . . ." In this, also, agreement is indicated with one view of police responsibility, to stop dangerous activity before it harms others.

But, then comes the pull of parental concern for the memory of a son who was not the likely embodiment of "a crazy

kid in a car" spoken of in common conversation.

Young Lamb was usually on the honor roll at school, with A and B averages, his folks recalled.

"He was never any problem," his father said. "He had a good attendance record at school, good grades. He carried two morning Star routes and was learning a third route."

"He never smoked a cigarette or took a drink in his life," the recollections continued.

"He got up at 4 a.m. to take care of those routes. Naturally, he had to go to bed pretty early. That's why it's still hard for me to believe he took the car..."

"You always knew where he was. If he was going to be late, he'd call."

"She (Mrs. Lamb) was home (Thursday) night. The car was supposed to be in the garage."

... He asked if he could go out for a while with the other boy. He said he would be back before 10 o'clock ... (leaving) about 8:15 p.m.

"At 9:35 (p.m.) I got the call at work ... They called her at home first."

Details of the chase, prompted by an alleged stop sign violation in the southeast part of town, remains to be reported in full.

Giving support to the cliché about truth being stranger than fiction, reports suggest the inexperienced young driver managed to elude an increasing number of city and state police cars in high speed pursuit across the south end of the city and back up and across town to the near northside before being stopped.

The vacuum of information awaiting completion of investigation has been filled with partial reports, rumors and speculation, including one report that police couldn't shoot out the tires because they were "steel-belted radials."

Not true, according to sources, including the senior Lamb. "There were a couple of old snow tires on the rear ... probably four years old. And, a pair of newer tires on the front ... not steel-belted, I'm sure."

As a matter of fact, one unofficial report stated that at least one of the tires was flattened by a shot. It was noted also that most of the holes counted by a reporter were low on the body of the small car, indicating aim taken at the tires rather than at the occupant.

Lamb said his son's driving experience was limited to a go-kart. "He drove that a lot, around here ... " and to moving the car from the garage or driveway to the street and back.

Clarifying other information, Lamb said the car was a 1967 Volkswagen. "I bought it three years ago ... never saw the time it could go 90 miles an hour," he declared, commenting on apparent inaccuracies in some accounts. "It seems there should have been another way..."

Crime and Criminals (T.H.)
Grand Jury Probe
S. JAN 20 1975
Decision Due Soon
Community Affairs File

The prosecuting attorney's office has drawn the attention of the community as a decision whether to call for a grand jury investigation into the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb is expected to come Monday or Tuesday.

Beset by the news media, Vigo County Prosecutor Mike Kearns stated no further information has developed in his investigation. The local boy was fatally injured after a high speed chase by police Thursday night ended when Lamb's car crashed into the rear end of a parked truck.

"When something breaks, I'll let you know," Kearns wearily said as he continued to collect and study evidence, including an autopsy report from the office of Vigo County Coroner Robert J. Burkle.

Burkle confirmed that fragments of either bullets or shotgun pellets were found in several areas of young Lamb's body. While Burkle declined to specify what areas, Kearns had stated earlier the local boy suffered head wounds, according to his reports.

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"It's quite a difficult question to determine exact cause of death," Burkle commented. He thought it possible both wounds

from gunfire and the car crash contributed equally to Lamb's death, he added.

When the question was raised about bullet fragments striking

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Grand Jury
S. JAN 20 1975
Continued From Page 1

Lamb after ricocheting, Burkle stated this would be "darn hard to determine from preliminary investigation. 'I don't think we'll ever know.'"

The fragments extracted from the young boy's body were sent, among other physical evidence, to the Washington, D.C., office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Analysis by the FBI laboratory scientists will take ten days to two weeks before a final report is returned to Terre Haute officials, Burkle told The Star.

Investigators and officials decided Friday an examination by FBI experts will yield the most impartial results, Burkle continued.

Customarily, evidence would be sent to the state lab for analysis. But since Indiana State Police officers were involved in the Thursday night pursuit, officials ruled out this approach, according to Burkle, to avoid any possible conflict of interest.

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Available reports indicate the Thursday night incident began at 9:30 p.m. when police officers spotted the youth running a stop sign at 21st and Franklin. The chase began after Lamb would not stop as a policeman was flagging him to halt.

Speeds ranged from 75 to 90 miles per hour, records show. Speculators question if Lamb's 1967 Volkswagen could maintain such speeds. Also unclear is how Lamb managed to elude a number of police cars in the chase covering much of the south of town, and across the city to the northside.

Lamb's car left the road at 12th and Spruce streets, squeezed between a building and telephone pole and struck the rear end of a parked truck.

The junior Lamb often made the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School honor roll with A and B averages. He played the trumpet in the school band, and carried two Terre Haute Star paper routes for about a year.

Community Affairs File
Crime and Criminals (T.H.)
the EDITOR'S MAIL

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

Dear Sir:

T JAN 21 1975
Literally speaking, I would like to "take up arms" in defense of the action of the Terre Haute city police, in the death of the Lamb boy.

Being parents, grandparents and great grandparents, my husband and I have gone through a lot of worry and heartaches—so our hearts and prayers are with the Lamb family in their time of grief.

However, we feel that the police involved—in fact, the entire police department, is going to take a real lashing from this incident.

Having been a Terre Haute resident, off and on, all my life and am still a Terre Haute taxpayer, I feel entitled to speak out in behalf of the action of the police. Innocent people were very much endangered. It seems, more and more, that it is the innocent by-standers who get hurt. They are not even allowed, by law, to protect their own life and property from wrongdoers.

In so many instances, it seems that a police officers' hands are "tied," for fear that they will be reprimanded for stepping on some big shots' toes, or that some one will scream, "Discrimination!" or their rights have been violated.

Well, I for one, (and, my husband) think its high time that our law enforcement officers are paid more money and more respect for risking their lives to protect ours!

Yours truly,
MR. AND MRS. O. T. FERRAND.
R.R.1, Clay City, Ind.

To the Editor:

First, let me say that my heart aches for the family of the boy who was killed last Thursday night after he led police on a wild chase across our city. (I've raised five children and can truly commiserate with them).

However, it's time that young people learned that when one "plays" rough the stakes are high. A reckless 14-year-old in a wildly speeding car can kill just as dead as the most hardened criminal.

Too long we've heard about the rights of those who break the law. I feel it's time something is said about the rights of the innocent, law-abiding citizen and the police officer who risks his life every time he encounters a law breaker.

Perhaps those who are censuring the officers who shot at that car and hit the boy would like to try aiming accurately at the tires of a careening, speeding car from a careening, speeding car. After all, it does seem that the police gave that youngster plenty of time before resorting to drastic measures. The miracle of the whole horrible episode is that only one life was lost before the tragic end was reached.

Sincerely,
NAME WITHHELD
(Name on file)

Dear Editor:

All who admire a stolid law-and-order stance must be particularly thrilled with the local event of last week.

Who can help but admire the strict enforcement of law when applied to fourteen-year-old paper carriers.

Those who participated in the chase and ultimate death of the youngster must find comfort in Chamfort's observation, "'Tis easier to make certain things legal than to make them legitimate."

But a question: Why is it I don't feel very secure, now?
JAMES G. BACKES,
3500 Margaret, Terre Haute.

the EDITOR'S MAIL

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To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to the tragedy that took place here in the city last Thursday evening. The outcome of it was all uncalled for as it was very unnecessary to do things the way they were done.

As anyone will tell you there were other ways in which that car could have been stopped. But when the call came through to get that car at any cost, they all took off on a shooting spree. Well, the cost is paid now and a very expensive one I would say. And another thing when I think of the kind of gun that was used it just makes me sick.

I have lived in the city of Terre Haute for 65 years. I was born and raised here and raised my family of eight children here.

And now I feel like the public is owed a statement from the Mayor, Chief of Police and Deputy Coroner.

MRS. ANNA SCHATZ,
2225 S. 1st St.

To the Editor:

T JAN 23 1975

We are quite concerned parents upset over the accident that happened last Thursday evening.

As taxpayers we should have the right to be informed on this matter.

When is our Chief of Police and Deputy Coroner going to make a public statement?

It seems as if they put their jobs, uniforms, and City and State owned auto before any thought other than "stop that car at any cost." and just look at the cost. This is a shame to our city. Take just one minute of your time in silent thought, and try to understand the sorrow of others, when losing a child. Multiply your feelings by a million and you still could not reach the height of their grief.

City and state property are paid for by taxpayers, but what is the price for a life.

It seems there could have been another way.

MR. AND MRS. ELMER W. HOLBERT,
1211 S. 17th St.

Dear Editor:

I wish at this time to commend and to criticize the local and state police the evening of Jan. 16, which the results were of a high speed chase here in this city involving a 14-year-old youth. The chase ended on Spruce St., between 12th and 13th Sts., and ended in one uncalled for death. In the first place if the boy would've stayed put when he was stopped the chase would not have been necessary.

Now I would like to commend those officers that participated which led to stopping this youth.

Now, I ask: Why was it necessary to "kill" him?

A shot in his shoulder, and the shot which struck him in the head could have hit his leg, or in the other shoulder, but was a volley of shots as reported preferred the HEAD only. Was this boy armed, did the boy fire back, was there a "warning" shot fired which is required by all law officers whether it be federal, state, county, city or private detective agencies? Can those that were involved really know, or care if it was his bullet which led to the death of this youngster, live with his conscience.

Can the State or the City officials make it known soon publicly why this had to happen?

The Holy Bible states, "Thou Shall Not Kill." It's the judge that says whether, or not a person will serve life, or be sentenced to death, most certainly not a peace officer, unless there is no other way. In this case unless the youth was considered dangerous, to kill him was wrong.

ROBERT E. CONLEY,
920 7th Ave.

Dear Sir:

Please do not think of us as a bunch of cop-hating, angry, hoods, because we are not.

We were really surprised about the second and third letters in your Jan. 21 column of "Editor's Mail." Here are two exact lines from those letters, "a reckless 14-year-old in a wildly speeding car," and "thrilled with the local event of last week." Are these people sick?

We think that Billy (William Lamb) was not wild, but had good control over the car, till he was killed, and thrilled, that was one of the last things we felt.

How many drug pushers have been killed or even arrested lately? Or the users? We just feel that when Billy paid so deep for his crime that the above mentioned should have to pay for their crime deeper, or is there a deeper?

We all want action to find out the real facts and we pray that this will never happen to such a good person as Billy, again.

Thank you very much.

TINA GALEY, DEBBIE ROMAN, FLO CHESTERFIELD,
TONY FAGE, RODNEY MILLER, JOY LAZZELL, ANITA MILLER, JOE DAVIDSON, RENEE BIRCHALL,
CHRIS GENTRY.

IND.

MONDAY, JAN. 27, 1975

the EDITOR'S MAIL

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

Dear Sir:

Although I am appalled by the fact that supposedly trained, skilled, professional policemen were unable to stop a car driven by a child, without having to use firearm force, this letter is not meant to condemn the entire police force.

Regardless of the tragic, unexplainable way this child died, I feel that the general public needs to know the kind of boy he was while he lived.

He was not a wild irresponsible boy, he was just the opposite.

This boy spent a great deal of time in our home and I do not recall that he was ever deliberately rude to anyone. He was always considerate of others, very respectful, polite to everyone, young and old alike. I can say without the slightest doubt, that parents' of his other friends would express the same feelings.

Billy Lamb was loved by many people. Granted, he made a serious mistake, but the price he paid for that mistake was much too high.

Yours truly,

MRS. REBECCA NIXON,
2730 Schaal Ave.

T JAN 27 1975

the EDITOR'S MAIL

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

Dear Sir:

As a mother and grandmother please let me state that my heart aches for the family of the Lamb boy. I lost a young son some years ago so truly know the heartache involved, but I keep thinking how different public opinion would have been had there been an accident, perhaps killing more innocent children during that mad dash—then the police would have been blamed for not stopping him sooner and those same people would have been condemning all young drivers and saying our authorities are too lax.

Also, on another subject, I am in a position to hear criticism regarding the young mother against whom charges have been dropped for so called "selling her baby". I understand she and her new baby son are under the constant supervision and the responsibility of a local minister and his family — also she is under treatment at the Katherine Hamilton Mental Hospital and reporting regularly to a Child Welfare caseworker, hoping when she is well enough to regain custody of her daughter.

Thank God for our Judge who is willing to give people a second chance; and help them help themselves if at all possible. What justice would have been served by sending a sick girl to prison when she can eventually be a good mother and two children saved a lot of misery just to satisfy a vengeful public?

Sincerely,

(Name on file)

Dear Editor:

T JAN 28 1975

This is concerning William Lamb's death. Billy was a friend, as well as a classmate at Wilson. He was in my classes and I knew him well enough to say that there's just no way that he wouldn't have stopped, unless (like his Dad said) he was just out of his mind with fear. He was not high, insane, crazy, or looking for excitement, like some people seem to think. He was just a 14-year-old kid scared to death.

Some people say that the police just couldn't have been accurate in trying to shoot out his tires. Well why couldn't they? That is their job. That's what the Terre Haute taxpayers are paying them for. After they shot out the one tire, they shouldn't have shot anymore at all. Billy couldn't have driven long with only three tires. I think the police should be sweating a little now, because their "steel-belted radial" story didn't come off. They knew Bill was no hardened criminal — they had the other youth in custody after a while; but yet they still shot.

I hate it when people say that they couldn't "keep up with Billy's car" or "couldn't shoot the tires out because Billy was going too fast". Surley, they don't think that Volkswagen was just truckin' down the street leaving the police car behind in a cloud of dust . . .

Sincerely,

TAMI HURT

18 Rutledge

Terre Haute, In.

the EDITOR'S MAIL

JAN 31 1975

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

Dear Sir:

T JAN 31 1975

I am writing concerning the recent tragedy which ended in the death of William Lamb Jr. I did not know the boy or his family, but they do have my sympathy.

However, I cannot agree with the letter sent by his former classmate in which the police were criticized for their action that evening.

The friend stated that "he was not high, insane, crazy or looking for excitement," but how does one explain the reason a 14-year-old youth was out driving his parents' car without their knowledge, except to say that he was indeed "looking for excitement?"

Granted, once he was being chased by the police, he probably was "out of his mind with fear," but that was still no excuse to allow him to continue risking his life as well as the lives of innocent people.

I am sure that the policemen involved in the case are not proud of the tragic ending that night, but in my opinion, they should be proud of the fact they prevented the loss of more lives.

Young Lamb's friend also stated that "the police of Terre Haute are paid by the taxpayers to shoot out the tires of fleeing autos," but it goes a little deeper than that.

The police are paid to protect the lives and well-being of the innocent citizens, and I think they were doing just that.

I am sure that being a policeman is not easy, which is why I feel that they should receive more praise and support from the citizens they risk their lives to protect day in and day out. Thank you.

(Name on File.)

To the Editor:

T JAN 31 1975

We are writing to express our astonishment at the actions of city and state policemen in dealing with a traffic violation by a 14-year-old boy, William Lamb.

We question the validity of the decision to chase and stop the car at all costs, when the boy's age and identity were known. He was endangering lives no more than the several police cars pursuing him. Had the police halted the chase they could have arrested the boy at his home later, avoiding a reckless pursuit which ended in a fatality.

There can be no justification for the shooting of the driver. A police regulation states that officers should fire their weapons in high-speed chase only when fired upon. This was clearly violated.

A 14-year-old boy made a mistake, panicked, and died for it. The tragedy of this incident must be faced and dealt with.

DRAKE CRITTENDEN, 2215 N. 10th St.
KAREN CANNON, 2108 N. 11th St.

the EDITOR'S MAIL

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

Dear Sir:

T JAN 29 1975

In regard to Rebecca Nixon's letter in your Jan. 27 issue of The Tribune I agree totally. Billy Lamb was in and out of my house many times. He was very respected in our home. I have never seen nor heard anything in Billy's manners to prove he was anything but a good boy.

Billy was not only a close friend of my sons, but he was the best paperboy I've ever had. He took special time to see that my paper was protected from the weather.

Billy was not a wild, reckless boy. He made a mistake and he paid the highest price for it.

Not only will his close friends miss him, but also we parents who thought so much of him.

Yours Truly,

MRS. JUDY FAGG, 2826 Schaal Ave.

T JAN 29 1975

Hint 'Facts Soon' In Auto Chase, Death Of TH Youth

Crime and Criminals (T.H.)
 JAN 29 1975

By DOUG SANDHAGE
 Star Staff Writer

Facts surrounding the death of a 14-year-old Terre Haute youth Jan. 16 following a 30 minute chase by city and state police are expected to be revealed very soon, perhaps within hours.

Meanwhile, The Star has learned that a prowler was reported to have been seen in the area of 25th and Franklin Streets just prior to the time that police observed the youth run a stop sign.

Killed during the chase was William R. Lamb Jr., 14, 231 N. 23rd St. He was a ninth grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School.

Chief of Police Jim Swift told The Star on Tuesday that Deputy Coroner George Kern has been in complete charge of the investigation and this prevents Swift from making further public statements.

Kern, who is also head of Indiana State University Safety and Security, was to investigate cause of death and decide on whether or not it was justified.

Vigo County Prosecutor Mike

Kearns, while refusing to discuss any details of the incident at all, said Monday that he will be the one to release the information when it's all ready. He further declined to speculate when it might be ready.

The information about the prowler in the area just prior to the chase was revealed by Captain Frank Hoffman, head of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Hoffman told The Star that a complaint had been received by the department from a woman saying that someone was shining a light in a window near the vicinity of 25th and Franklin Streets. A police squad car was then dispatched to the scene.

Sometime after police arriv-

ed, Lamb was observed running the stop sign which resulted in the chase.

Police have refused to comment on whether or not the pursuing policeman thought that the runaway car was connected with the prowler complaint.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Swift was attempting to set up a meeting with Kern and Kearns for early Wednesday morning. Swift said that he hoped he would be able to release more of the facts following the proposed meeting.

Kearns said Jan. 17 that bullets were taken from Lamb's body during the autopsy. However, he has not yet explained

whether or not the bullets, the end crash, or a combination of both, caused death.

Weapons fired and bullets taken from Lamb and the auto were sent to the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for investigation, said Kearns. He added that under normal circumstances the investigation would have been conducted at local laboratories but since both city and state police were involved, he decided that the FBI would be "independent."

While acknowledging that a grand jury may have to be called in the case, Vigo Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson said that the final decision rests with Kearns. Kearns declined to comment if he'd do so on Monday.

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Some questions which remain unanswered in the case are:

1. Did police, at any time during the chase, know that their suspect was only 14 years old?
2. When the youth who was riding with Lamb got out of the car at 19th and Hulman Streets, was he questioned about the identity of the driver and if he was, was this information relayed to the pursuing police officers?
3. How did the State Police get involved in the chase?
4. Who fired, and how many shots were fired at Lamb? Were the shots specifically aimed at him?
5. Was shooting at Lamb a last resort? Does an order to "Stop a car at all costs." include the use of firearms force?

According to reports, the whole incident started about 9:30 p.m., Jan. 17 when police saw the Lamb youth run a stop sign at 25th and Franklin Streets. A chase ensued after Lamb refused to stop.

Lamb pulled over at 19th and Hulman streets when a second juvenile got out of the car. While the youth was being detained by the officer, Lamb again took off.

The chase went south to Margaret Avenue, west to State Road 63, north to Washington Street, east to 6th Street, north to Poplar Street, east to 8th Street, north to Cherry Street, east to 9th Street, north to Spruce Street, and east to 12th Street.

During the high speed chase, Lamb reportedly hit three city police squad cars and was able to evade several roadblocks. Five city police squad cars and one state police vehicle were in pursuit.

+ + +

The chase ended at 12th and Spruce streets when the vehicle left the road, squeezed between a telephone pole and a building and then struck the rear of a parked dump truck.

It is unknown at what time the shots were fired at the vehicle.

At the scene, The Star counted at least eight bullet holes near the right rear tire. In addition, part of the rear window on the driver's side was broken out.

An earlier report that an attempt was made to first shoot out the tires had failed because they were steel-belted radials proved to be incorrect — the tires were not this type.

Lamb was taken to Union Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition. He died at 11:05 p.m.

The second youth, who was questioned by authorities the following day, was not charged. Reports indicate the youth said he unsuccessfully tried to get Lamb to stop.

The 1967 model Volkswagen was extensively damaged.

Several persons who were able to observe parts of the chase indicated that several near crashes were just narrowly avoided, especially when the youth went north on Eighth Street, a one-way street, where traffic is routed south.

There has to be some other way

Sp FEB 1 1975
By Jon Pikel

Crime and Criminals (TH)

On the night of January 16th tragedy struck down not only the life of 14 year old Billy Lamb, Jr., but also the credibility of the police in our city.

All indications are that Billy, an exceptionally fine young boy, panicked as he was about to be stopped by police. A fear-struck fourteen year old driving illegally is as unexcusable as it is tragically understandable. With squadcar in pursuit he and his companion took off on a stranger than fiction chase through our city streets endangering life and property, ended only by a burst of gun shot.

Further indications are that the police learned from the companion later let out of the Lamb car that the driver was in fact only a 14 year old. Those who monitor their police scanning radios say that the police direction was to "stop the car at all costs."

It will be our natural tendency to find a simple enemy in all of this--either the boy for violating the law in the first place, the patrolman who pulled the trigger, or by extension all police in general.

My concern is a larger question: what as citizens of Terre Haute do we expect of our police and how do we equip them psychologically to do what we ask of them?

During the recent rash of robberies and house breakins, I repeatedly heard from citizen and police related personnel alike that "if I caught someone stealing in my home I'd shoot first and ask questions later." There was even talk of vigilante-type groups forming within the city, all of which reminds me of Chicago's Mayor Daley and his infamous charge to his police during the 1960's looting and burning of property: "shoot to kill!"

For all too many of us shooting or the threat of shooting is the only real crime control weapon that we give to, or expect from, our police.

But then, in a society where violence is as American as apple pie, what else can we expect? If we ever doubt this penchant to see the gun as America's all-time and virtually all-occasion problem solver, we need only turn on the tube at night. Long gone are the problem solving methods of *The Senator* or of the social worker on *East Side/West Side*. THE GUN has become our solution of first and last resort. Our heroes whether on TV or in real life are those who

live by, around and with the gun.

To suggest gun control legislation where the gun is so revered is the ultimate heresy. Even the legalization of pot is more politically tolerable than suggesting gun control legislation with teeth in it.

Not until legislation outlaws handguns in fact may we ever in this society have a chance to stamp out gun-related solutions to our problems in mind.

And, not until we equip our police, like do the British, first with crime control attitudes and then with crime control methods other than gun-related procedures will we ever prevent such senseless reoccurrences of Thursday night's tragedy.

Lest we be too quick to dump all the blame on the police, however, we must be forever grateful for those countless other times unheralded by press, public, or potential victim that the police decide not to shoot, even at great risk. To shoot or not to shoot is the daily dilemma that each of us lay upon our Terre Haute police. And, let's admit it, they're usually damned if they do and damned if they don't shoot.

Nothing we do now can salvage this young life, as much as the police and all of us wish we could.

But, something must be done to salvage the police credibility in our city; for a police department's most valuable crime-prevention weapon is never its "threatability", but always its credibility within the community. No police force on earth can keep the peace . . . without a deeply ingrained sense held by all that the police are in fact both friend and servant.

A cover-up of the facts in this case, either by silence or by evasion, can only cause more harm in the long run than whatever embarrassment might be spared in the short run. This senseless tragedy has deeply affected the lives of our Terre Haute youth, some supporting the police shooting whatever the costs and others decrying the shooting whatever the facts. At a time like this, we all need straight talk and openness and honesty from the police and all other authorities involved.

But even after all is long forgotten about the night of January 16th in Terre Haute, the more lasting problem of violence in our society, whether police or citizen initiated, will still be with us. It's as true now as ever: "a people who live by the sword will die by the sword". There simply HAS to be some other way and that's as I see it now.

Swift Calls for Action

Community Affairs File

FEB 1 1975

Ts FEB 2 1975

Citizens Await Inquiry Into Death of Lamb Boy

By JACK HUGHES
Tribune Staff Writer

Investigations by agencies inquiring into the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb Jr. two weeks ago last Thursday haven't revealed to the public much in the way of factual information beyond that reported within the first few days of the tragedy.

What has become more and more apparent during the wait for official reports is the element of pressure:

The pressure of grief on the Lamb family, pressed also by their staunch regard and respect for the law . . .

The pressure of the inquiry itself; actually parallel inquiries by city police, the office of the county coroner, the county prosecutor and whatever other investigations, if any, may be underway without public announcement . . .

The pressure of the "public's right to know," pressed both by news media, other groups and individuals; each following real

interest or momentary curiosity through questions put directly to friends among officials and media representatives, or with letters and phone calls, sometimes expressing opinions that may gall the recipient.

And through this " . . . awful two weeks," as the period was described this weekend by more than one individual directly affected, officials pretty much have remained silent in spite of rumors, speculation and opinion.

Chief Jim Swift of the Terre Haute Police Department broke his silence Saturday as he made a public request for both a grand jury inquiry and a coroner's inquest. He did not release details of the police department investigation, although he said it was complete and had been for some time.

He did, however, reveal that the reason for his silence, other than awaiting completion of the department's investigation, had to do with an effort to cooperate

with other agencies. He said Deputy Coroner George Kern had asked him for "10 days."

Kern said, meanwhile, that as far as he was concerned, the full investigation would not be complete until reports of analyses of physical evidence in state and federal laboratories had been returned. He said that could be several weeks yet, maybe as many as four or five.

And, Vigo Prosecutor Michael Kearns would say only that he believed he was " . . . close to a decision" on whether to request a grand jury call by Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson.

The judge had suggested the possibility of such a move early in the investigation, pointing out that it was up to the prosecutor to request it if he saw fit.

Some sources suggest that there is no reason for a grand jury investigation, which would be conducted in secret, unless it resulted in an indictment against someone for some al-

leged wrongdoing. Others say that it might clear the air.

On the police chief's request for a coroner's inquest, a routine procedure involving a public hearing required in some states for death resulting from anything other than natural causes, the possibility is unclear. The coroner's office reports that a coroner's verdict, or report, will be returned with the completion of the investigation. One source said an inquest of the judicial public hearing type might be illegal in Indiana.

Chief Swift, at the time of his official comments in his office Saturday, amplified those remarks with conversation, revealing something of the atmosphere in which the investigation was pursued, and apparently continues in other departments.

He said, in part, "We (as public servants) owe an obligation to the taxpayers of the city of Terre Haute to know the com-

Continued On Page 7, Col. 1.

plete and full story of what happened on the night that Billy Lamb was injured.

"And in order to get this, I feel that the grand jury must be called, not only for the benefit of the Lamb family, but also for the Terre Haute Police Department and the officers that were involved.

"We have been, from time to time, told, or (there has been) reported in some of the news media erroneous statements about what happened that night. And I say to them that at no time was there any release or any report from my office or the Terre Haute Police Department and this is the first official report from the Terre Haute Police Department.

"And the reason it is the first report is that we waited till we have all the facts, the investigation complete.

"At no time, as reported, did the Terre Haute Police Department say there were steel-belted tires on this Volkswagen—as there was not!—at no time were there 10 state police cars or 10 city police cars in pursuit of this car—because there weren't!

"At the most, in any one time, there were three (city) squad cars in pursuit and four total involved in it at all times," Swift reported.

In the city's investigation into young Lamb's death, as in other police activities, Mayor Brighton has said the police chief was in charge, had his confidence, and the conduct of police business would be left up to Swift and the department without his, the mayor's interference.

This does not, of course, suggest that the mayor is not interested, nor has it prevented Mayor Brighton from communicating that interest, and pressures on the mayor from the citizenry, to the police chief.

Of particular concern to the mayor, according to the conversation with Swift, was the need to " . . . make some kind of a statement to lay to rest all of the rumors that have started . . . and it's time that those rumors were cleared up . . . and those rumors become rampant on the basis that we have been held in abeyance by other agencies . . ."

Among the concerns expressed in that regard was the appearance, seemingly supported by silence from official sources, that authorities were " . . . trying to cover up something."

Swift said nothing could be farther from the truth as he reported. "We want the facts out . . . The mayor has been on top of this since the happening and has insisted that the Terre Haute Police Department make full disclosure of all things involved so that the public and citizens will know, because it is their right . . ."

However, the police chief said that details other than those in his official comments, which included the corrections of what he described as false information, will have to await further action.

SWIFT CALLS

Grand Jury Probe, Inquest Sought in Lamb Boy's Death

FEB 1 1975

FEB 1 1975

By JACK HUGHES
Tribune Staff Writer

Community Affairs File

Terre Haute Police Chief Jim Swift Saturday called for both a grand jury inquiry and a coroner's inquest into the Jan. 16 death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb Jr. following a chase by city and state police.

In a statement Saturday, Chief Swift stopped just short of demanding such action by the office of the Vigo County prosecuting attorney and the county coroner.

"It's necessary, not only for the Lamb family's benefit and the memory of young Billy Lamb, but for the policemen involved," Swift said, adding that "... the citizenry deserves to know all the facts ..." to halt rumor and speculation as well as correct erroneous reports.

"I'm asking," the police chief said, "in behalf of all Terre Haute police officers involved, that a grand jury be called ... and a coroner's inquest be held."

Chief Swift's comments in his office came shortly after a two-hour meeting with the Lamb family during which, it was indicated, facts of the case as disclosed by the city police investigation were discussed.

However, Swift said he was unable to reveal all of that information to the media because of a continuing effort to cooperate with other agencies.

"The Terre Haute Police Department investigation is complete and has been for some time," he declared, stating further that "... everything has been turned over to the prosecutor's office and the coroner's office ... including all physical evidence, statements and everything."

"Now, we're asking to be heard," Swift said as he asserted that only the facts of the matter will meet the need for public information and stop rumor and speculation.

The police chief stressed that this was the first time his office had said anything about the case and that any erroneous reports had to come from other sources.

Saying that he was breaking his silence only to further the aim of making public the facts of the case, Swift said that he still felt restrained from a complete disclosure, but had to put down at least a couple of items of misinformation circulated earlier.

"Some media reported that there were steel-belted radial tires (on the Lamb vehicle). There were no steel-belted tires ..." Swift stated.

"Another thing," he continued, reports told of "... 10 city and 10 state police cars (in the chase). There were only four city and one state trooper (squad cars) ... no more than three at any one time in close pursuit."

He said that other details made public in a coroner's inquest, would answer questions in the minds of people speculating on the case and would reveal the degree of concern for public safety felt by authorities, not only in connection with the pursuit of young Lamb, but in any high speed travel over city streets, whether by official cars or other vehicles.

Repeating that he was constrained from revealing much in the way of the facts he wanted to see made public, Swift reported, "But, I can say that the chase went on for more than 20 minutes."

Expressing confidence that public support will come with the revelation of the facts of the case, he said, "We want to be heard ..."

Prior to the police chief's remarks, inquiry by The TRIBUNE to the office of Prosecutor Michael Kearns and Coroner Robert Burke brought a report from the former that he "... is close to a decision," whether to call for a grand jury inquiry, and, from the coroner's office, the return of reports on analyses of physical evidence from state and federal laboratories "... may be four or five weeks away."

FOR INQUIRY

Inquest, Jury Probe Requested in Letters

T FEB 3 1975

Community Affairs File

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

A coroner's inquest and a grand jury probe into the death of William R. Lamb were requested in letters sent to George R. Kern, deputy coroner for Vigo County, and Michael H. Kearns, Vigo County prosecuting attorney, by the Terre Haute Police Department Monday.

William R. Lamb, 14, died Jan. 16 after a chase by city and state police.

Samuel E. Beecher Jr., legal adviser for the Terre Haute Police Department, sent the letters following a verbal request for the actions by Chief of Police James Swift Saturday.

In the letters, Beecher re-

quested if Deputy Coroner Kern or Prosecutor Kearns were not able to conduct the investigations through their offices that special appointees be named to conduct the inquest and grand jury hearing.

In the case of an appointee for the coroner's inquest, the letter suggested Lee Easton, justice of the peace of Harrison Township and the senior justice in the county, be appointed. A justice of the peace may conduct an inquiry on the behalf of a coroner and enter a verdict, according to Indiana law.

Beecher did not request in the letter a specific person to be appointed if the regular appointed deputies to the prosecutor

could not handle a grand jury investigation. He did tell The TRIBUNE such persons as a former prosecutor or former deputy prosecutors could handle the investigation.

The letter to the deputy coroner requested an inquest involving the hearing of witnesses, having the testimony reduced to writing and then providing a written verdict. Beecher explained the department felt a coroner's inquest was necessary to make available for the public information on the whole incident. He pointed out a grand jury decision would be kept secret.

The request was made for an inquest for the "purpose of stopping the rumors in the community in the absence of such a public hearing," accord-

Continued On Page 2, Col. 4.

Inquest, Probe

T FEB 3 1975

Continued From Page One.

ing to the letter sent to Deputy Coroner Kern by Beecher.

The letter to Prosecuting Attorney Kearns requested on behalf of Chief of Police James Swift and uniformed Terre Haute Police Department officers involved in the Lamb incident, that the prosecuting attorney ask Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson to convene a grand jury or resummons the grand jury originally impaneled for this term of court, to hear evidence in connection with the Jan. 16 incident.

Beecher explained the six persons on the grand jury would hear the evidence and decide on either an indictment or a no bill. Beecher said the reason the department is asking is if the grand jury decides on a no bill, "justifiable homicide under the circumstances would be proved despite how unfortunate it was."

If the grand jury hands down an indictment, the prosecutor has the final decision to prosecute depending on if he can make a case out of it, Beecher added.

The letter to Kearns stated, "All of this is requested in order that all of the facts be resolved and the rumors and misinformation stop which is degenerating the morale of the police department and law enforcement generally in the community."

Coroner Returns Verdict In Lamb Youth's Death

T FEB 5 1975

By WAYNE PERRY
Tribune Staff Writer

A verdict of justifiable homicide has resulted from the coroner's investigation into the death of William R. Lamb, a 14-year-old who died Jan. 16 following a high-speed chase by city and state police.

The official coroner's report, released by Dr. Robert J. Burkle, county coroner, and George Kern, deputy coroner, indicated that the cause of Lamb's death was a wound in the back of the head.

They reported that the wound was "just a splinter or fragment of metal—either a piece of metal from the youth's car or a fragment of a ricocheted bullet.

The youth's only other wound was a grazed cut on the upper part of his left arm.

In neither case were the wounds the result of direct bullet fire.

Kern noted that the coroner's findings were the result of "facts presented in the case."

He commented on the findings:

"These things are tragic and very sad to everyone involved, especially the family. No policeman wants to shoot anyone, much less kill them, especially a 14-year-old boy.

"But in the attempt to get the car stopped, he (Lamb) was wounded and later died of the wound."

The coroner's findings are in agreement with earlier reports that indicated that Lamb's body yielded no whole projectiles, only fragments of metal.

Those metal fragments have been sent for analysis to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. Kern would not speculate as to when an evaluation of the fragments would be made by the FBI.

Kern stated that if the youth's death was caused by a bullet fragment, it may never be known which police officer fired such a bullet.

He noted that several police officers fired during the chase.

"The fragment of metal was

so small that we may never know," Kern summarized.

Earlier in the week, Kern stated that an investigation by the Indiana University School of Medicine indicated that there was no trace of alcohol or drugs in Lamb's body.

Lamb's death followed a high-speed chase that began at 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, after the youth reportedly ran a stop sign in the vicinity of 25th and Franklin streets.

The chase ended 22 minutes later when the car driven by Lamb left the street, squeezed between a telephone pole and a building, and finally came to rest after striking the rear end of a parked dump truck at 12th and Spruce streets.

Police reports indicate that when a city patrolman saw the youth run a stop sign, the officer began the chase that covered the extreme south end of the city, the southwest corner of Terre Haute, and the near northside. Over seven miles were covered during the chase.

During that time, speeds

ranged from 50 to 75 miles per hour. Three roadblocks were set up during the chase, but Lamb reportedly disregarded all three, hitting two city vehicles.

During the chase, four city vehicles and one state police car were involved.

Kern confirmed that a state excise officer was riding in the State Police vehicle and was involved in the chase.

At the time of the crash, both city and state police were at the scene.

Another youth was reported riding in Lamb's vehicle during the early stages of the chase. That youth got out of the car near Hulman and 21st streets, was apprehended and questioned by police, and was released.

Kern stated that the second youth told authorities that he and Lamb had discussed stopping the car and giving themselves up to the police, but that Lamb did not have permission to use the car and was afraid

Continued On Page 5, Col. 5.

Coroner Rules

Continued From Page One.

to stop.

When the second youth got out of the car, it is reported that he said he considered running, but decided instead to go to the police. When a police officer stepped out of his stopped car to approach the second youth, Lamb sped off again.

Lamb was a student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb Sr., 231 N. 23rd St.

Dr. Jack G. Weinbaum, a pathologist who performed the autopsy of Lamb's body, turned over his finding to the coroner. The coroner also had access to the official police reports of the incident.

Terre Haute Chief of Police James Swift recently requested Michael H. Kearns, Vigo County prosecuting attorney, to conduct a grand jury probe into Lamb's death.

A number of rumors that circulated following the incident, including reports that the tires on the youth's vehicle were steel belted and that as many as 20 police vehicles were involved in the chase, have been determined as false.

GRAND JURY

Crime & Criminals (F.H.)
Prosecutor Kearns

Requests Probe Of Youth's Death

By WAYNE PERRY
Tribune Staff Writer

T FEB 6 1975
Community Affairs File

A request for a grand jury probe into the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb has been honored by Judge C. Joseph Anderson, Vigo County Circuit Court.

The grand jury will be convened on Friday, Feb. 14. The motion to call the grand jury session was filed Thursday morning by Michael H. Kearns, Vigo County prosecuting attorney.

Lamb's death, occurring after a high speed police chase, has been a center of controversy—with numerous public citizens, as well as Terre Haute Chief of Police James Swift, requesting an investigation into the incident.

The youth evaded the police during a 22-minute chase on Jan. 16 after he had reportedly run a stop sign. Police in pursuit fired at Lamb's car in an attempt to stop the youth. The car crashed into a parked truck and the youth died shortly thereafter.

In a morning press conference, Kearns noted, "I believe that the independent investigation by the prosecutor's office is now complete enough to take before a grand jury."

That independent investigation, Kearns reported, consisted of a review of all available official reports concerning the incident and interviews of witnesses, including the police officers who were involved in the chase.

The prosecuting attorney stated that all tests from the Indiana State Police laboratory had been completed and were being returned to his office.

In addition, Kearns revealed that results from checks of metal fragments (which reportedly caused Lamb's death) were being returned from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., and should be received in Terre Haute late Thursday or Friday.

In the coroner's report released Wednesday, it was determined that Lamb had died of a wound in the back of the head. Metal fragments, that could have either been from the youth's car or from ricocheted bullets, were sent to the FBI for examination.

Noting that the proceedings of a grand jury investigation were conducted in secret, Kearns stated:

"After the completion of the probe, depending on the outcome, full disclosure of the facts and circumstances will be needed.

"If there is an indictment, the grand jury report would not be disclosed since it might jeopardize a fair trial.

"But if there is no indictment, I would request the release of the evidence in total."

Kearns estimated that the grand jury proceedings would last two or three days.

He noted that he had requested that the session be called Monday, Feb. 10, but that since counsel for certain police officers would not be available at that time, Judge Anderson granted a continuance to Friday, Feb. 14.

The prosecutor anticipated that some 20 witnesses might be called by the grand jury. He noted that the identity of those witnesses would "not be disclosed."

Noting that the grand jury probe would be totally different from the coroner's investigation, Kearns commented that the jury could subpoena any witnesses it desired.

"My role with the jury will be to merely assist it in its work," he concluded.

Kearns reported that he had

Continued On Page 5, Col. 2.

SESSION SET

Prosecutor

Continued from page 1

earlier informed Lamb's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb Sr., 231 N. 23rd St., that a grand jury would be called.

Pointing out that the coroner's report had ruled Lamb's death as "justifiable homicide," Kearns commented:

"Whether or not it was homicide and whether or not it was justifiable is, in my opinion, a judicial decision."

"The determination of guilt or innocence must be made by a judge or a jury. Nobody has the right to invade the judicial process."

The coroner's report was released Wednesday by Dr. Robert J. Burdick, county coroner, and George Kern, deputy county coroner.

Kern stated at the time that the verdict of justifiable homicide was based on findings of "facts presented in the case."

Lamb's death followed a high speed chase that began at 9 p.m. on Jan. 16, after he reportedly ran a stop sign in the vicinity of 25th and Franklin Sts.

The chase ended 22 minutes later when his car left the street, squeezed between a telephone pole and a building, and finally came to rest after striking the rear end of a parked dump truck at 12th and Spruce streets.

Lamb was reportedly driving his parents' car during the chase and was afraid to stop.

Earlier in the week, Kern stated that an investigation by the Indiana University School of Medicine at Indianapolis indicated that there was no trace of alcohol or drugs in Lamb's body.

As stated previously, Swift requested verbally and through a letter to Kearns that a grand jury investigation be called.

Also requesting that a jury be called in the letter to Kearns were the uniformed Terre Haute Police Department officers involved in the Lamb incident.

Samuel E. Beecher, Jr., legal adviser for the Terre Haute Police Department, said Monday that if a grand jury was called, the six members would hear the evidence in the case and decide on either an indictment or a no bill.

Beecher said at the time that the reason the department was asking for the grand jury was that if a "no bill" is determined, "justifiable homicide under the circumstances would be proved despite how unfortunate it was."

If the grand jury should hand down an indictment, the prosecutor has the final decision to prosecute depending on if he can make a case out of it, Beecher added.

The letter from the local police department to Kearns stated:

"All of this is requested in order that all of the facts be resolved and the rumors and misinformation stop which is degenerating the morale of the police department and law enforcement generally in the community."

the EDITOR'S MAIL

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers. The briefer they are the better the chance of publication. All are subject to condensation or rejection. All must be signed. The Tribune does not necessarily agree with statements made and does not assume responsibility.

To the Editor:

T FEB 6 1975

This letter concerns the William Lamb tragedy. My first few statements are directed to Mr. (Name on File) of Friday, Jan. 31, the Editor's Mail. I believe every person has a right to his personal opinion, however, if he will not endorse that opinion it should not be spoken. This person makes a generalization that the boy was "looking for excitement" directly debating the statement of Bill Lamb's friend. Mr. (Name on File) does not know the boy, was not involved and does not know the situation and has no basis on which to make such a statement. This person weighed his blind assumption greater than the knowledge of Lamb's friend. An interesting quote was "... still no excuse to allow him to continue risking his life as well as the lives of innocent people." The first half of this statement makes no sense knowing the conclusion and sounds like a direct insult.

The police are supposedly trained with high speed driving skills, therefore I cannot see how six Mercury Montereys could not stop one Volkswagen driver by an inexperienced 14-year-old. Throughout the chase the engine of the Volkswagen was staring the police in the face and they could neither put enough bullets into it to incapacitate the car nor puncture the tires. But when it came to Bill Lamb...

At high speeds a half dozen police cars chased and fired upon a Volkswagen because "the driver of the Volkswagen was endangering innocent lives." Whatever element of danger was present was multiplied by the larger faster, more powerful, more dangerous, bullet-slinging police cars. As Drake Crittenden suggested had the police aborted their senseless chase the boy would not have driven so desperately, no innocent citizens would have been endangered and the police could have picked him up at home later.

This is a tragic mistake by the police and must be investigated to the letter of the law.

T FEB 6 1975

JOHN W. PETTY,
2826 Mariposa Drive.

Mr. Editor:

I wish to give thanks when thanks are due. I asked Harry Brentlinger to investigate the road that goes up into the Village of Whitcomb Heights because of a bad curve in the road on a hill.

At the bottom of a ravine was a large amount of water, into which any car might go off into when it was slick and icy. My daughter lives on this hill and I was afraid for her and the children's lives in the winter time. Brentlinger inspected the road and had a guard rail installed there and from how it looks today, I think someone else should be thankful for it too, for someone has hit it.

I truly want to thank Mr. Brentlinger and his crew for such a good and quick job in getting this installation done.

CALE V. STEVENS SR.,
1319 North Fruitridge Ave.

William R. Lamb Jr. Death

S FEB

6 1975

Community Affairs File

Called Justifiable Homicide

Crime and Criminals (TCH)

The cause of death of William R. Lamb Jr., killed in a high-speed chase with city and state police on Jan. 16, was a wound in the back of the head, according to the report of Vigo County Coroner Dr. Robert J. Burkle, Wednesday.

A verdict of justifiable homicide was the result of the coroner's investigation. The report was released by Burkle and George Kern, deputy coroner.

They reported the wound was caused by "just a splinter or fragment of metal — either a piece of metal from the youth's car or a fragment of a ricocheted bullet." The only other wound was a grazed cut on the upper part of his arm.

Kern emphasized the coroner's findings were the result of facts presented in the case, from police and medical

reports. Dr. Jack D. Weinbaum, who performed the autopsy, submitted his report to the coroner.

+ + +

The coroner's findings agree with earlier reports that there were no whole projectiles found in the youth's body. The Indiana University School of Medicine also reported that no alcohol nor drug traces were found in Lamb's body. The metal fragments were sent to the FBI in Washington for analysis, but there was no indication when a report would be received.

Kern indicated that if the metal fragment was from a bullet, it would be practically impossible to determine which officer's gun fired the shot. He also acknowledged that an exercise officer was riding in the state police vehicle, and was involved in the chase.

No more than four city police vehicles and one state police auto were involved in the chase at a given time. At the time of the crash, both city and state police were at the scene.

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The Lamb youth, 14 years of age, was involved in a police chase Jan. 16. The chase initiated near 25th and Franklin

See LAMB DEATH

On Page 23, Column 3

Lamb Death

S FEB

6 1975

Continued from Page 1

Sts. when a police patrol unit allegedly observed the Lamb vehicle run a stop sign.

During the chase, which lasted 22 minutes and covered more than seven miles, the youth ran three roadblocks, damaging two city police vehicles. A second youth was reported in the Lamb vehicle, but jumped out near 21st and Hulan when Lamb stopped. The second youth was questioned and later released.

The second youth told police the Lamb boy was afraid to stop, as he had taken the car without his parents' permission. The chase continued from the southside to the north, where Lamb is said to have driven his vehicle between a building and a utility pole near 12th and Spruce Sts., and stopping when the vehicle struck a parked dump truck.

Lamb was a student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb, Sr., 231 N. 23rd St.

+ + +

Chief of Police James Swift recently requested Vigo County Michael H. Koarns to conduct a grand jury probe into Lamb's death. A number of rumors following the tragic incident, including reports there were 20 police vehicles in the chase, and that tires on Lamb's vehicle were steel-belted, have been determined as false.

"These things are tragic and extremely sad to everyone involved, particularly the family," Kern stated. "No policeman wants to shoot anyone, much less kill anyone, especially a 14-year-old youth. But, in an attempt to get the car stopped, Lamb was wounded and later died of the wound."

Prosecutor Koarns is expected to make a statement regarding the coroner's report and the request for a grand jury investigation, at a press conference Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Courthouse.

Jury Probing

Community Affairs File

Lamb's Death

FEB 14 1975

A grand jury probe into the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb began Friday at 9 a.m.

County Prosecutor Michael H. Kearns reported early Friday that he anticipated that the six-member panel would be in session for two or three days.

Some 20 witnesses are expected to be called as the jury investigates Lamb's death, which occurred after a high-speed police chase on Jan. 16.

Kearns requested on Thursday, Feb. 6, that the jury be called. At that time, Judge C. Joseph Anderson, Vigo County Circuit Court, honored the request and called the jury for Feb. 14.

On that date, Kearns stated, "I believe that the independent investigation by the prosecutor's office is now complete enough to take before a grand jury."

Noting that the proceedings of a grand jury investigation are conducted in secret, Kearns stated:

"After the completion of the probe, depending on the outcome, full disclosure of the facts and circumstances will be needed.

"If there is an indictment, the grand jury report would not be disclosed since it might jeopardize a fair trial.

"But if there is no indictment, I would request the release of the evidence in total."

Kearns explained that it would be up to the grand jury to determine what witnesses are called for questioning, but he predicted that some 20 persons might be involved. He noted that the identity of those witnesses would "not be disclosed."

The prosecutor added, "My role with the jury will be to merely assist it in its work."

If the jury investigation proceeds as Kearns has estimated, a verdict might be returned by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. If an indictment is returned, it will reportedly be up to Kearns whether or not to prosecute, depending on whether he believes he has a case.

Kearns had originally requested that the jury be convened as of Feb. 10, but since counsel for certain police officers would not have been available at that time, Judge Anderson set the Feb. 14 date.

During the jury session, Kearns will reveal to the jury the results of his office's independent investigation, which consisted of a review of all available reports concerning the incident and interviews of witnesses — including the police officers who were involved in the chase.

Lamb evaded the police during a 22-minute chase after he had reportedly run a stop sign. Police in pursuit fired at his car in an attempt to stop the youth. The car chase ended

Continued On Page 3, Col. 4.

Jury Probe

FEB 14 1975

Continued From Page One.

when Lamb's car crashed into a parked truck; the youth died shortly thereafter.

In the coroner's report released Feb. 5, it was determined that Lamb had died of a wound in the back of the head. Metal fragments, that could have either been from the youth's car or from ricocheted bullets, were sent to the FBI for examination.

The coroner's report ruled the death "justifiable homicide."

Vigo Grand Jury Begins

Lamb Death Investigation

FEB 15 1975

The Vigo County Grand Jury Friday began its investigation into circumstances surrounding the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb Jr.

Young Lamb died Jan. 16 from injuries he received following a high-speed police chase which covered much of the southside and near northside

sections of Terre Haute. The chase ended when Lamb crashed the automobile he was driving at Twelfth and Spruce streets.

County Prosecutor Michael H. Kearns said the grand jury probe will probably last two or three days with a verdict ex-

pected Tuesday or Wednesday. The grand jury will not be in session Monday because of the observance of Washington's Birthday.

A report released by Vigo County Coroner Robert J. Burkle Feb. 5 determined that the boy's death was justifiable homicide. When Kearns requested the grand jury session the following day, however, he said whether the death was homicide and whether it was justifiable are judicial determinations to be made by a judge or a jury.

Grand jury proceedings are secret; however, Kearns said if there is no indictment forthcoming, he would request a full disclosure of the testimony presented before the Grand Jury.

Terre Haute Police Chief James L. Swift had earlier called for a Grand Jury probe of the incident because of the controversy that erupted following the incident. According to reports, several shots were fired during the chase and the coroner's report did not specify whether or not the metal fragment which inflicted the fatal wound was from a projectile or from the car itself.

Kearns said some 20 witnesses would be called to testify.

Grand Jury Probe Resumes

FEB 18 1975

A Vigo County grand jury probe into the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb went into its second day Tuesday.

County prosecutor Michael H. Kearns requested on Feb. 6 that the grand jury be called by Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson.

At that time, Judge Anderson honored the request and called the jury for Friday, Feb. 14.

They did not meet Monday because it was a legal holiday.

Kearns anticipates that the session will take two or three days. Some 20 witnesses are expected to be called, as the six member grand jury concerns itself with Lamb's death, which occurred after a high-speed police chase on Jan. 16.

The coroner's report ruled the death "justifiable homicide."

Grand Jury Will Probe Death Of 14-Year-Old Boy

Community Affairs File

About 20 Persons To Testify

S. FEB. 7 1975

Vigo Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson has called the grand jury into session Feb. 14 to investigate circumstances surrounding the death of 14-year-old William R. Lamb Jr.

Young Lamb died Jan. 16 following a high-speed police chase that originated near Twenty-first and Franklin streets and ended when the automobile Lamb was driving crashed near Twelfth and Spruce streets.

County Prosecutor Michael E. Kearns requested the grand jury session in a motion filed Thursday morning in circuit court. Lamb's death resulted in a major controversy which sparked numerous calls for a grand jury probe.

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Commenting on the coroner's report, Kearns said whether or not Lamb's death was homicide and whether or not it was justifiable are judicial determinations. He said guilt or innocence must be decided by a judge or a jury. "Nobody has the right to invade the judicial process," he said.

Kearns had requested the grand jury be called into session Monday; however, Judge Anderson granted a continuance to the following Friday when it was learned counsel for certain police officers would not be available Monday.

Lamb's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Lamb Sr., 231 N. 23rd St., were notified earlier that the grand jury would be called, according to Kearns.

Terre Haute Police Chief James Swift Saturday called for both a grand jury investigation and a coroner's inquest; however, Coroner Robert J. Burkle Wednesday released results of an investigation by his office which called the death justifiable homicide.

The coroner's report apparently precludes a coroner's inquest, which would have been an unusual procedure under Indiana statutes.

Dr. Burkle said the investigation by his office, which was led by Deputy Coroner George Kern, determined

See GRAND JURY
On Page 3, Column 1

S. FEB. 7 1975

Grand Jury

Continued From Page 1

that Lamb died of a wound in the back of the head inflicted by a splinter or fragment of metal. Burkle said it could not be determined whether the fragment was from a projectile or from part of the car itself.

Kearns said Thursday the Federal Bureau of Investigation has completed tests on the fragments and results of the test should be available Friday.

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Some 20 witnesses are expected to be called to testify at the grand jury proceeding, including police officers involved in the chase and others. Kearns explained that grand jury testimony is privileged, but he said if no indictments are forthcoming the evidence would be released "in toto." He estimated the probe would last two or three days.

Kearns noted that he gave interviews and made public comments immediately after the incident and that he subsequently has tried to follow guidelines suggested by the American Bar Association. He said there is a perennial conflict between freedom of press and the public's right to know and the constitutional rights of the parties involved.

"I believe in a free press but also in governmental processes," Kearns said. "I believe in guidelines as set down in the constitution."

Vigo Grand Jury Returns 'No Bill' In Death Of Lamb

Details of the grand jury inquiry, ending Friday a week of closed hearings into the Jan. 16 death of William R. Lamb Jr., remain to be released following the return of a "no bill" report Friday.

The Vigo Circuit Court Grand Jury heard 35 witnesses in five days of testimony before returning the report, according to Prosecuting Attorney Michael Kearns who said the report was delivered to Superior Court Judge Harold J. Bitzegaio about 4 p.m. Friday. Judge Bitzegaio was serving as judge pro tempore of Circuit Court Friday during the illness of Judge C. Joseph Anderson, said to be suffering a cold or the flu.

The prosecutor, noting that the grand jury report meant that the jurors did not find reason to return any indictment against anyone, repeated an earlier promise to seek release of information obtained into the police pursuit of the 14-year-old driver, including gunfire and ending with his death following a crash.

The grand jury began its session Feb. 14. It recessed for the three-day holiday weekend and reconvened Tuesday morning. Kearns said the jury remained in session into the night on several occasions. A total of 35 witnesses were called to testify, he said.

Kearns requested Feb. 6 the Grand Jury be called into session to investigate circumstances surrounding the death of the 14-year-old Lamb boy. A controversy erupted after Lamb died in a high-speed police chase that covered much of the southside and near-northside sections of Terre Haute.

Several persons, including Police Chief James L. Swift, asked for a Grand Jury probe of the incident after numerous rumors began circulating, many of which put blame for the youth's death on policemen involved in the chase.

County Coroner Robert J. Burkle released a report of the

investigation conducted by his office Feb. 6 in which the death was called a "justifiable homicide."

Kearns said later, however, that whether the death was a homicide and whether it was justifiable are judicial determinations to be decided by a judge or a jury.

Dr. Burkle said when he released the report that the investigation by his office, which was led by Deputy Coroner George Kern, determined that young Lamb died of a wound in the back of the head which was inflicted by a splinter or fragment of metal. Burkle said it could not be determined whether the fragment was from a projectile or from a part of the car itself.

The chase began at Twenty-first and Franklin streets, according to one report, when a policeman on routine patrol spotted the Lamb auto go through a stop sign. At one point in the chase, Lamb stopped the car he was driving to let his passenger out of the car.

Lamb led pursuing policemen from both the Terre Haute Police Department and Indiana State Police across the south end of town to Prairieton Road then back east and north through the downtown area. The chase ended when Lamb crashed his car at Twelfth and Spruce streets.

Because of the involvement of a state police unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was asked to conduct tests on certain pieces of evidence.

According to reports at the time, Lamb was driving a car owned by his parents, but without their knowledge. The youth's companion, an unidentified juvenile, was among witnesses who testified before the Grand Jury.

Continued On Page 2, Col. 3.

Vigo Prosecutor Releases

Crime and Criminals (T.H.) 5 MAR .8 1975

Lamb Death Probe Results

By JOE BOLAND
Star Staff Writer

Vigo County Prosecutor Michael H. Kearns Friday released results of an investigation conducted by his office into the death of William R. Lamb Jr. Jan. 16.

Kearns said for every minute of the 17-mile police chase which resulted in Lamb's death, his office spent five hours on the investigation. He said every aspect of the incident was scrutinized from the points of view of both the Lamb family and the three law enforcement agencies involved in the tragedy.

Lamb, who was 14 at the time of his death, led police on a chase that began near Twenty-fifth and Franklin streets and covered much of the south and near-northside areas of the city before it

Community Affairs File

ended near Twelfth and Spruce streets when the car Lamb was driving crashed into a parked truck.

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The chase began when a patrolman on routine duty spotted the Lamb car run a stop sign at Twenty-fifth and Franklin streets. Kearns said there had been a report of a prowler in the area which was received by the Terre Haute Police Department approximately one half hour earlier. He said the report came from a babysitter at a residence within three city blocks of the spot where Lamb was observed running the stop sign.

During the chase, Lamb stopped his car at Twenty-first and Hulman streets and a passenger got out of the car. While a pursuing policeman was walking toward the Lamb

car, Lamb pulled away from the curb at which time the passenger was taken into custody and the chase resumed.

The investigation revealed that there was no conversation between the juvenile who had been Lamb's passenger and the policeman who was driving the squad car.

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There had been earlier speculation that the boy had told the arresting officer who the driver of the fleeing car was.

The high-speed chase began at 9:03 p.m. and ended at 9:20 p.m. It covered nine and one-tenths miles and the route included 20 stop signs and 16 traffic control signals.

A total of 76 specimens recovered following the chase were sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory at Washington, D.C., for evaluation. The specimens included twelve metal fragments removed from the boy's body, seven cartridge cases, a shotgun shell casing, two pieces of wadding, two .357 magnum revolvers, a .38 Special revolver, a 12-gauge shotgun, five cartridges, two shotgun shells and 43 photographs.

The FBI tests on the metal fragments, which were determined to be the cause of death, were inconclusive. The report stated only that the specimens "are 12 non-magnetic metal fragments of undetermined origin which bear no marks of value for identification with a suspect weapon."

Tests on the other specimens were similarly inconclusive.

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The autopsy report revealed that Lamb's injuries included a wound caused by a lead projectile on the head and left shoulder, discoloration of the left eye, a forehead contusion and abrasions on the right forearm and left knee.

The official report of the investigation conducted by the Vigo County Coroner's Office listed as causes of death a projectile of lead to the right side of the head and multiple abrasions and contusions.

Several specimens of blood and body tissue were sent to the State Department of Toxicology for evaluation. The report showed no traces of alcohol or drugs of any kind in the boy's body.

Kearns also produced copies of the city police and Indiana State Police firearms policy as they apply to high speed chases. The city policy states that officers should fire their weapons only when fired upon and then only when they are absolutely sure that no innocent party is

endangered. The state police maintains a similar policy.

Kearns said there was no evidence that the pursuing policemen were fired upon.

An Indiana State Excise officer who was riding in the state police car involved in the chase would probably be considered an authorized passenger in the state police vehicle under present policies.

The shotgun used was issued by the Indiana State Police. A total of four officers fired shots at the fleeing vehicle — three from police vehicles and one from a stationary position.

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Kearns said the case is close as far as his office is concerned. He said there is no longer a possibility of criminal prosecution, although it is possible administrative action could be brought against law enforcement officers by their respective agencies.

Kearns said he is prohibited from releasing any testimony before the county Grand Jury which met on Feb. 21 and Feb. 25 to 28 to investigate the incident. It is presumed, however, that most of the testimony would be similar to evidence gathered by Kearns' staff.

The Grand Jury returned a verdict of "no bill" Feb. 28 at which time Kearns said he would petition Circuit Court C. Joseph Anderson for permission to release results of the prosecutor's probe.

Search Continues For Man In Double-Murder Case

Community Affairs File

By BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

Local police authorities continue their search for a 33-year old Seelyville man wanted on two counts of first degree murder in connection to Monday night's double homicide on the city's northside.

An arrest warrant for James Rufus Loyd, 33, Seelyville, was obtained by city detectives Tuesday afternoon, according to Capt. Frank Hoffman, in charge of criminal investigation.

According to city police, two half-brothers, Donald Wayne Douglas, 24, 658 Elm St., and Walter Lee Melvin, 27, 1731 N.

6th St., were shot to death about 6:20 p.m. Monday near Sixth Street and Maiden Lane. Some details of the shooting incident are incomplete and police detectives are continuing their investigation.

A spokesman for one of the victims' family told The Star there had been a long-standing "grudge" between Loyd and the two half-brothers. The spokesman alleged Loyd had previously threatened both Douglas and Melvin, but reasons for the alleged threat were unknown.

Although city police reports indicate the shooting happened after an argument between the half-brothers and Lloyd, the family spokesman claims the sequences leading to the shooting were reported incorrectly.

The spokesman, whose name is being withheld, said the murder suspect drove to 1700 N. 6th St., about one-half block north of Melvin's home, got out of his U-Haul truck and began shouting obscenities toward the house where Douglas and Melvin were. According to the source, Douglas first walked outside the house and engaged in an argument with the man, now identified as Loyd.

Following the verbal dispute, it is believed Douglas was shot in the heart from point blank range, according to ballistics reports.

Meanwhile, Melvin came outside the house to investigate matters and was subsequently shot twice by the murder suspect, city detectives said Melvin was shot in the side once and also received a flesh wound to the face, according to ballistics.

The spokesman alleged Ronnie Robins, 21, 1935 N. 5th St., then tried to stop the fleeing

gunman, and in the process, was reportedly beaten by the wanted suspect. Robins was taken to Union Hospital Monday night and was released following treatment of a mouth injury, police said.

Preliminary police reports conflict with the family spokesman's allegations. Police said Monday night it was believed Robins was injured by Loyd and moments later the two half brothers came to Robins' rescue. Following an argument, both Melvin and Douglas were shot by the lone gunman, police said.

A Terre Haute detective said Tuesday night the case is under continued investigation and circumstances surrounding the double homicide were still unclear.



Community Affairs File

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Loyd, James R.

Loyd, James R.

James R. Loyd Caught • In Beech Grove Area

James Rufus Loyd, 33, Seelyville, wanted for the double slaying of two Terre Haute men Monday night, has been apprehended in Indianapolis, according to Terre Haute Chief of Police James Swift.

Loyd was picked up by officers from the Indianapolis Police Homicide Division, who acted on information from Terre Haute police, at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. Local authorities received a tip on his whereabouts around 8 p.m. Tuesday. The arrest was made in the Beech Grove area. A warrant charges Loyd with two counts of first degree murder.

"The double homicide Monday involved Donald Wayne Douglas, 24, 658 Elm St., and Walter Lee Melvin, 27, 1731 N. 6th St., who were killed in a shooting incident near 6th Street and Maiden Lane at about 6:20 p.m. Monday.

Reports indicate the half-brothers became involved in an argument with a subject identified by police as Loyd near Melvin's northside residence Monday night. Douglas and Melvin were reportedly shot and the

assailant fled the scene in a U-Haul pick-up truck.

In connection with another Monday night shooting, Edith Hoopengartner, 48, 1912 Idaho St., is being held in Vigo County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond following the death of her husband, Roy, 51, at their residence.

Preliminary charges of assault and battery with intent to kill and commission of a felony while armed with a deadly weapon have been filed against Mrs. Hoopengartner. She was arraigned in Vigo Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon before Judge C. Joseph Anderson.

Terre Haute City Police were called to the Hoopengartner residence shortly before 10 p.m. Monday and found Hoopengartner in the bathroom, where he had been shot with a .38 caliber handgun. He was taken to Terre Haute Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead several hours later.

Meanwhile, two Terre Haute men charged in the weekend murder of a Marshall, Ill., farmer made initial appearances in Clark County

Circuit Court Tuesday and were ruled indigent, with a public defender appointed for each.

James Edward Baker, 24, and Thomas F. Hummel, 25, both of 2318 Sycamore St., were arrested Monday and charged with the murder of 70-year-old Everett A. Livvix.

Clark County Sheriff James Hills reports that Baker and Hummel will face formal arraignment on Monday, Oct. 6, in the circuit court.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Loyd, James R.

8 THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE, IND

JAN 15 1976

Jury Convicts

Crime and Criminals (T.H.)

James R. Loyd

Community Affairs File

A 12-member Vigo Superior Court jury found James Rufus Loyd Jr., 33, guilty on two counts of first degree murder Wednesday, after three hours and 35 minutes of deliberation.

The trial lasted eight days, with jury selection completed last Monday, Jan. 5. Judge C. Joseph Anderson ordered a pre-sentence investigation to be completed by Feb. 10, at which time sentence will be pronounced. Indiana statutes provide life in prison on conviction of first degree murder.

Public defender Robert F. Hellmann said Thursday that he would appeal Loyd's conviction. Hellmann was assisted in the defense by former Chief Public Defender Robert Howard Brown, who is now a county court judge.

Chief Deputy prosecutor Phillip I. Adler presented the state's case and was assisted by Detective Thomas Tanoos of the Terre Haute Police Department.

Loyd was arrested in a suburban Indianapolis apartment several days after the Sept. 29 shooting at 6th Street and Maiden Lane on Terre Haute's northside in which two half-brothers, Walter Lee Melvin, 27, and Donald Wayne Douglas, 24, were killed.

Both sides called numerous witnesses to testify. Unusual security precautions were ordered by Judge C. Joseph Anderson throughout the trial, after it was reported that threats had been made on Loyd's life and against some of the witnesses.

Both sides had one hour to present final arguments. Adler reserved his final 20 minutes until the defense had concluded. Brown spoke to the jury, on definitions of premeditation and self defense, before Hellmann concluded his final arguments.

The defendant did not take the stand.

The gun used in the double shooting has not been found.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA